

CHARACTERS

June A woman appearing 70 or up.
Richard A man appearing 70 or up.
April June's daughter, 40-50.
Gus June's son, 40-50.

SETTING

Interior, JUNE's room at Pleasant Palms Rest Home.

TIME

Present day.

(APRIL and GUS are seated on a sofa in JUNE's small, tastefully appointed room at Pleasant Palms Rest Home. Two chairs opposite, magazines on coffee table. Some semblance of a kitchen or small table UL. Sound of shower in background UR)

APRIL

Don't you think it's odd that her door was locked? The shower's running. What if she hadn't asked me to make a copy of her key? We'd still be out in the hall waiting.

GUS

You should've asked before making extras. Guess she's worried she'll lose hers. You worry too much. Mom's fine here; I talk to her more than you do. She seems to be in great spirits.

APRIL

I call her too. I've been navigating Dad's financial issues, remember. Makes it a little hard to stop by every day when you're on hold for the upteenth time with those state retirement assholes or--

GUS

I didn't mean anything. You took on the lion's share. What a nightmare.

APRIL

(Appeased) Well, thank you. I know Mom appreciates it. It's nice to hear that you do too.

GUS

Dad really dropped the ball, not avoiding probate. He could've saved us...YOU...all this trouble if--

APRIL

Such poor planning, having that pesky ole aneurysm.

GUS

I meant no disrespect.

APRIL

I know. I'm just on edge since Mark left. *(Gets up, pacing slowly.)* This is nice. She's been here, what, six months? I hope she's made friends. She fought us hard enough.

GUS

"I don't need assisted living." She'd have rather wrapped herself up in a lifetime of memories in that big old house--

APRIL

With its long list of repairs needed any minute. And who would've had to drop everything to do them? *(Both gesture to themselves, and get annoyed with the other.)* She was already in assisted living - I...I mean "we"... were doing the assisting, though. Once she stopped driving, especially. At least here we know she's safe. *(Getting upset again.)* Until she locks the damn door and slips in the shower! Paying top dollar for getting looked after and then she locks the door?!

(The sound of singing comes from UR.)

GUS

Doesn't sound like she's in distress.

APRIL

(Pleased) I don't think I've heard her singing like that since Dad died. No, long before Dad died.

GUS

Do you think they were happy?

APRIL

Happy enough. But now Mom's gonna be alone forever.

GUS

What if Dad had died years ago? Mom might have remarried!

APRIL

(Laughing) Oooo. Gross. It was bad enough thinking about them doing it when they were in their 40s or 50s.

GUS

You mean our age. *(Laughs.)* At least that's not something we have to worry about. Some dude trying to bilk Mom out of her virtue or her money.

APRIL

(Sits, picks up magazine, stops to listen. Shower sound ends, but soft humming and singing continue.) Didn't you tell Mom we were coming?

GUS

No, I thought you did. It's not like she's going anywhere. What's the worst that could happen? We'd have to track her down at Bingo or interrupt dinner at, like, four in the afternoon?

APRIL

Did you hear the receptionist? When we signed in, she mentioned she hadn't seen Mom around much. Like she's staying in her room.

GUS

(Concerned) Someone has to be checking on her. Maybe Mom is depressed. Understandable. Old and alone after all those years with Dad.

APRIL

Well, I thought she was fine. Better than fine. Troublingly fine, come to think of it.

GUS

She said it was "God's will." Dad was "ready to go," whatever that means.

APRIL

At peace. Success. Friends. Family. Although I remember hearing him once say that if Mom went first, he'd probably remarry.

GUS

Really! Go, Dad. (Laughs) I'm glad things didn't happen that way. And that Mom is more sensible about-- well, you know.

APRIL

Good grief, he didn't mean that. Mom waited on the man hand and foot. He was relentless. "Get me another glass of iced tea!"

GUS

I'll bet you did the same for Mark. While it lasted.

APRIL

(Makes a face) They do say women marry men like their fathers. Is Nancy like Mom? The doting little woman?

GUS

No, we do things diff--

(The sound of a key in the lock is heard.)

GUS (CONTD)

Must be one of the nurses, checking in.

(RICHARD enters, as surprised to see them as they are to see him. He carries a rose and a bottle of wine.)

APRIL

(Rising) You must have the wrong room. *(To GUS)* But--

GUS

I'm annoyed.

(JUNE exits the bathroom UR, dressed in a negligee and matching robe.)

JUNE

I'm a bit of both. *(Walks to Richard and kisses him briefly, to APRIL and GUS'S shock.)* Hello, dear. *(To APRIL and GUS)* I guess it's time to answer some questions, beginning with an age-old one. Who arrived first, the chicken or the egg? More to the point...the children or the lover?

APRIL/GUS

(Overlapping) Lover?! You've got to be...What in the world...You don't mean...

JUNE

(Leading RICHARD to couch. JUNE and GUS sit opposite, stunned.) Another question first, though. How did you get into my room?

APRIL

You asked for a copy, so--

GUS

It was for...him?

JUNE

(Isn't it obvious?) It's been a year since your father died.

APRIL

And?

JUNE

A woman has needs.

GUS

For companionship, sure. That's why we wanted you to come here to Pleasant Palms.

JUNE

(Laughing, sharing a look with RICHARD) I'm glad you wanted me to..."come here." Oh dear, now I'm blushing!

RICHARD

June Bug, I am equally grateful you decided to..."come here."

GUS

(Groaning) June Bug. For the love of Pete -

JUNE

For the love of Richard, actually. Are you shocked, dear? Do you need a glass of water?

RICHARD

There's wine, if you need something stronger. They asked me if there's a buddy system. If I came to cheer you up. *(Teasing)* No one's seen you lately.

APRIL

Are you telling us that you two...oh my God.

JUNE

Precisely. This man is indeed a gift from God. I never thought I'd need...cheering up...again, but unlike the staff, Rick's been seeing quite a lot of your old mom. Every day, in fact.

RICHARD

Sometimes more than once.

GUS

(Appalled) But you're so--

RICHARD

Old? *(Pauses)* You know the saying, "Use it or lose it?" It's always been a priority of mine to...stay useful.

JUNE

Richard's wife, rest her soul, passed away last year as well. He was lonely. Your father and I had many happy years together, too, even if he wasn't quite as...useful ...but I'm not going to discuss that right now.

GUS

Thank God.

JUNE

(Indicating) We were in the dining room. He was sitting with the General--

RICHARD

Oldest living veteran here. *(Beat)* Until last week.

JUNE

I was sitting with my Bingo girls and our eyes met across -

RICHARD

(*singing from "Some Enchanted Evening"*) "A crowded room. And somehow you know. You know even then, that you will see her again and again - "

APRIL

I think I may be sick.

JUNE

I've always loved that song. "South Pacific" in general. Anything by Rodgers and Hammerstein, really, although the plot of -

GUS

Can we stay on topic, please? Your eyes met and -

RICHARD

I've been "seeing" her ever since.

APRIL

Seeing, seeing? Mom! You lectured me for years about "saving myself" and the first tenor you meet, you want to jump into--

JUNE

One, I wanted you to save yourself for marriage. Which you didn't, as I recall. The marriage didn't last, either. (*"Weighing" situations with her hands.*) Coincidence? Maybe not. But who was I supposed to save myself for? I didn't expect a man to notice me again, much less want to--

GUS

Spare us the details, please.

RICHARD

Young man, I love this woman. But you're her son, and I would expect you to grill any man who came sniffing around. I have nothing but the best intentions. I don't want her money, or your inheritance, if that's what has your knickers in a twist. (Looks at JUNE). I love her. We found each other late in life, obviously -

JUNE

Obviously.

RICHARD

But we found each other. And (to APRIL and GUS) just like the song says, we never want to let each other go.

APRIL

That's why you're here just now, with the rose and wine--

JUNE

(To RICHARD) A rose? Thank you dear. How sweet. (To APRIL and GUS) Don't worry. I cleared the wine with my doctor. He even encouraged it. And the sex.

GUS

(Increasingly upset) You're kidding. The doctor knows about this? Your children are clueless, which is apparently just fine and dandy, but your fucking doctor knows that you're--

JUNE

Fucking. Oh, don't look so shocked. Just because I don't use such language as a rule doesn't mean I can't. Or that I don't know what it means. I'm old, I'm not done.

RICHARD

Well done, in my opinion.

APRIL

So your eyes met, yada yada yada and now you've been...wanting to ...for how long? This was going to be the first time, I hope? Sorry to interrupt. Sorry, not sorry.

JUNE

(Laughs) Oh, no. We've been - you seem to need it spelled out - Richard and I have been enjoying sexual intercourse for five months. (Giggles) Forty or fifty years ago, I might be pregnant by now! Thankfully, that's no longer a possibility.

RICHARD

And no need for those distressingly tight -

JUNE

Only because they don't come in the right size for a man of your -

GUS

Shut up! Both of you. (Gets up, pacing) This ends now.